

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04061 221008Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 L-01 OES-02 EB-04 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/043 W

-----033184 221317Z /44

R 220835Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5508
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4061

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR EAID IN BG NP
SUBJECT: EASTERN WATERS STUDY

REF: STATE 162675

1. WE WELCOME INFORMATION THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH
INHOUSE STUDY GROUP IS LOOKING AT LONG RANGE SOLUTIONS
TO THE PROBLEMS, IN ALL ASPECTS, OF THE EASTERN WATERS
QUESTION OF THE SUB-CONTINENT.

2. OUR COMMENTS ON JANUARY 5, 1977, MEMORANDUM BY
THOMAS THORNTON (THEN S/P) WERE CONTAINED IN THE
AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO THORNTON OF MARCH 11. FROM
THORNTON'S LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR OF JUNE 30
WE LEARN THAT OUR COMMENTS ARE BEFORE THE NEA IG.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ENGINEERING/TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS
TO THE CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF GANGES/BRAHMAPUTRA BASIN
WATERS ARE WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY AND HAVE
BEEN STUDIED PREVIOUSLY BY ENGINEERING GROUPS UNDER
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VARIOUS AUSPICES. IT SEEMS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT
FINANCING MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.

4. IF THESE TWO ASSUMPTIONS ARE VALID, THE KEY FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF BANGLADESH IS POLITICAL: WHETHER A MORE CON-
TROLLED FLOW OF WATER IS WORTH THE POTENTIAL COST OF GIVING
INDIA CONTROL OF THE UPSTREAM FAUCETS. THE EASTERN RIVERS

DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO THE RATHER COMPLETE SOLOMON-
ESQUE SOLUTION WHICH WAS AVAILABLE IN THE INDUS REGION.
TO THE STILL STRONG DISTRUST OF INDIA AS THE UPPER RI-
PARIAN MUST BE ADDED THE BANGLADESHI RELUCTANCE AT PRESENT
TO AGREE TO A MAJOR LINK CANAL THROUGH RANGPUR AND
DINAJPUR DISTRICTS (WHICH MIGHT BE OVERCOME GIVEN SUFFI-
CENT INCENTIVES) AND INDIA'S REFUSAL SO FAR TO INTER-
NATIONALIZE RIVER DEVELOPMENT. BANGLADESH, WE FEEL, WOULD
BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE BANK AS OWERSEER OF AN INTEGRATED
PROJECT MUCH AS PAKISTAN WAS IN 1960 WITH THE INDUS.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. WE MAY
COMMENT FURTHER UPON RECEIPT OF THESE.
BERGESEN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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